

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 4556

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to measures to promote the pursuit of higher education by
3 AmeriCorps participants.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 61.0904 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.0904. INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE HIGHER EDUCATION BY
8 AMERICORPS PARTICIPANTS. (a) The board shall develop measures to
9 promote the pursuit of postsecondary education at institutions of
10 higher education by current or former AmeriCorps participants.

11 (b) The board shall coordinate with institutions of higher
12 education to promote the inclusion of information regarding the
13 availability of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to AmeriCorps
14 participants in written materials provided to prospective students
15 and in financial aid application or informational materials.

16 (c) Using money available to the board for student financial
17 aid, including any money appropriated for purposes of this section,
18 the board shall develop and administer a program of financial
19 assistance or other measures as the board considers appropriate to
20 provide incentives to AmeriCorps participants to pursue
21 postsecondary education at institutions of higher education. The
22 program may include scholarships, grants that match any money
23 received from a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, or other
24 incentives such as reimbursement to institutions that waive

1 application fees or other costs for applicants or students who are
2 current or former AmeriCorps participants.

3 (d) The board shall examine whether, consistent with
4 applicable academic standards, it is feasible for institutions of
5 higher education to grant academic credit for all or part of a
6 student's AmeriCorps service, and shall make recommendations for
7 that purpose to institutions consistent with the board's findings.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.